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Approved For Release 2005/03/07 : CIA-RDP80M01048A000800050010-0

NOV 1973
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19 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion of Open Budget with Ralph Preston,
Chief Counsel of the House Appropriations Committee

1. Messrs. Clarke, [redacted] met with Mr. Preston on 19 July to brief him on Senator McClellan's request for Mr. Colby's views on disclosing budget figures for the National Intelligence Program in the Senate Appropriations Committee Report on the DOD FY 1974 Appropriations Bill. Mr. Preston said he was aware of the pressures in the Senate for such disclosures but relaxation of current procedures on the disclosure of intelligence figures would lead inevitably to further erosion and result in broader debate about and wide knowledge of intelligence programs. He appeared to accept the necessity of disclosing the total figures for the NIP, but was opposed to disclosure of the budget figures for CIA, DIA, NSA, and the three services, even if this were done by Senator McClellan at his own discretion on a confidential basis with selected members of Congress. He said he would discuss the subject with Mr. Mahon but was confident he was reflecting the latter's views.

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2. General Allen and [redacted] have been briefed on this meeting.

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[redacted]

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